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25X1 2. IRANIAN RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN ENDANGERED

Relations between Iran and Pakistan are "at a turning point," 25X1

This souring of relations will diminish Pakistan's ability to act as a moderating influence on Iranian foreign policy.

State Dept. review completed

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The Pakistanis have long been concerned by the underlying hostility of the Iranian revolution. Islamabad perceives Tehran as increasingly prone to regard Pakistan as a close ally of the US, and, moreover, an ally which had close ties to the Shah and an "unrepresentative" government. Recent developments have increased Pakistani anxiety:

--Iran's invitation of a rabid critic of Zia to the recent "crimes of the US" conference in Tehran. This Pakistani made highly critical statements and announced that he intended to establish his organization's headquarters in Tehran.

--The appearance of warnings by the "Islamic Revolutionary Movement of Pakistan" in leading Iranian Government-sponsored newspapers alleging that the Pakistani Embassy is actually a den for American espionage in Iran and that Pakistan itself is an un-Islamic den of iniquity. The organization declares that "with inspiration from Imam Khomeini" it hopes "to bring down the subservient regime in Pakistan."

The Pakistanis have not received any clear explanation for the worsening of relations. It may be connected, however, with the increasing dominance of the hard-line Iranian clerics and their strong pro-Shia and anti-Western views.

Pakistani discomfiture will probably increase as their staunchest defender in the Iranian Government, Foreign Minister Ghotbzadeh, departs. His resignation may also complicate the work of the Islamic Conference Standing Committee on Afghanistan, of which he and Pakistani Foreign Minister Agha Shahi are the two most active members. If the next Iranian Foreign Minister does not share Ghotbzadeh's concerns over the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, he may seek to downplay Iranian involvement in the Committee, which occupies a central place in Pakistani foreign policy.

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